



**Cheadle and Gatley
Urban District Council**

Annual Report

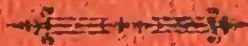


OF

KENNETH D. BEAN

M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H., Acting Medical Officer of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1937



CHEADLE:

W. MARSH, Printer & Stationer, High Street,

1938.



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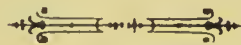


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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CHEADLE AND GATLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District of Cheadle and Gatley for the year 1937.

The district continues to develop rapidly, and the number of new houses built and occupied during the year was in excess of that of the previous year. A large number of new streets were laid out, and the number of private streets adopted by your Council as public highways during the year was 22, having a total length of 2 miles and 382 yards.

The work of the sanitary department has been carried out in a satisfactory manner; very few complaints have been received.

The incidence of infectious disease was lower during this year than in 1936. Influenza was very prevalent throughout the district during the first two months of the year and two schools were closed during February on this account, as a measure of control of infection.

The death rate for the district is a little lower than last year, viz., 9.48 as compared with 10.14 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The birth rate is 16.04 per 1,000 of population, and the infant mortality rate is 42.60 per 1,000 live births. Both of these figures show improvement, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 13.80 and 54.87 respectively.

During the year important changes have been foreshadowed in the Public Health Department. The appointment of a full-time Medical Officer of Health, which is anticipated will take effect early in the coming year, will be greatly welcomed and should enable work to be done on important public health problems which heretofore the time at the disposal of a part-time officer has not permitted.

I wish to acknowledge the great help I have always received in carrying out my duties from your Clerk, Mr. Timperley, from your two Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Bennett, and from other officials of your Council. I am again particularly indebted to Mr. Hayes for his help in the work of drawing up this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH D. BEAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

- (a) Medical. One part-time Medical Officer of Health, who holds the Diploma of Public Health (Manchester University).
- (b) Others. Two Sanitary Inspectors, whole-time, who hold the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The County Council Officials are responsible for some duties.

APPENDIX I.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres), 5,303.

Resident population (Registrar General's estimate, mid. 1937), 24,870.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the rate books, 8,505.

Rateable value of the area, £206,000.

Product of a penny rate, £800.

The district is mainly residential and agricultural. There are several engineering works, steam laundries, a brick works and a silk mill in the district.

Unemployment has further decreased in the district during the twelve months, extensions to works within the district apparently largely accounting for this.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

Legitimate—Males 213, females 175; total 388.

Illegitimate—Males 6, females 5; total 11.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 16.04.

STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate—Males 9, females 6; total 15.

Illegitimate—Males 1, females 0; total 1.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births, 40.10.

DEATHS.

Males 121, females 115; total 236.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population, 9.48.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000, total (live & still) Births
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.50
No. 30. Other Puerperal diseases	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	1	2.50
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births, 42.6.

Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births, 41.2.

Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 90.9.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 0

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 0

„ „ Cancer (all ages) 30

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.

There were no causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year, nor have any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health, nor any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children and adults.

Section B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. These are provided by:—

1. Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine of the University of Manchester.
2. Pathological Department of the Chester Royal Infirmary.
3. Pathological Department of the Stockport Infirmary.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. Two motor ambulances of the Cheadle and Cheadle Heath Division St. Johns Ambulance Brigade are stationed at the Fire Station, Cheadle, and provide ready and adequate service for the district.

(c) Nursing in the home. There has been no change in this service.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. No change has been made in these.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. Your Council is entirely dependent for this service on hospitals situated outside the district, and with the exception of two classes of cases they are entirely adequate for the needs of the community. There is as yet no provision within the district for accommodation for maternity cases other than that supplied by four registered nursing homes, with an aggregate of 17 beds, and facilities for admission to centres outside the district were still further curtailed with the close of the year. With the great increase in the number of houses the need for a maternity centre within the district is being increasingly felt. The isolation hospital accommodatiaon is referred to in Section F.

Section C.

(i) **Water.**

This is supplied by the Stockport Corporation Water Department. The new 18 inch feeder main from the Goyt Valley Reser-

voir was completed and came into use during the last three months of the year. The quantity of water is adequate and the quality is good; it is controlled by mechanical filtration, and subject to repeated bacteriological and chemical examination. No complaints have been made about the supply this year.

Periodical inspection has been carried out at wells on premises where these are the only source of water supply. No samples have been submitted for examination.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

No important extension of the sewerage system was undertaken during the year.

(iii) **Rivers and Streams.**

These are under the jurisdiction of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

(iv) **Closet Accommodation.**

All properties in the more densely populated parts of the area are equipped with water closets. The only properties remaining on the conservancy system are in isolated parts of the district, the numbers being as follows:—Privies 46, pail closets 14.

(v) **Public Cleansing.**

No alterations have taken place during the year. A small plague of crickets occurred in a part of the Gatley Tip, where material from demolished properties had been deposited. The crickets were successfully dealt with and entirely eliminated.

Owing to the steady increase in the population and the number of houses in this area collection of refuse by existing horse and mechanical transport is being taxed to its limit, and consideration may well have to be given to increasing the facilities for this collection.

Dry refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land owned by your Council in Gatley Carrs. There is at the present time room for only three or four more years refuse disposal by this method.

(vi) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

The district has been systematically inspected by your Sanitary Inspectors, and I have also made inspections on several occasions. The report of your Sanitary Inspectors is attached to this report, and is in the form of a tabulated statement giving the number and nature of inspections made during the year, and also the number of notices served during the year and their results.

(vii) **Shops.**

No action was deemed necessary during the year under the Shops Act, 1934. All the shops are well lighted and ventilated, and sufficient sanitary accommodation is provided in each case.

(viii) **Smoke Abatement.**

Observations were taken on several occasions during the year, and in all cases these proved satisfactory.

(ix) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district which are open to the public, but a scheme for provision of Public Swimming Baths is under consideration by your Council.

(x) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

The number of houses found to be infested with bed bugs was seven, viz., three Council houses and four private houses. These were all disinfected by means of fumigation and spraying of insecticide. "Furmex" fumigators were used for the purpose, and "Killgercide" was used as a liquid spray. The furniture and effects of all prospective tenants of Council houses are inspected before a tenant is allowed to take possession of a Council house, and no tenant is allowed in them until the goods are certified as free from infestation.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. When disinfection has been carried out, regular visits of inspection are made to the houses and to the persons concerned, with a view to preventing a recurrence of the infestation.

(xi) **Schools.**

The sanitary condition and water supply of all the elementary schools is good. When cases of infectious disease have been reported to me, your Sanitary Inspectors or I have visited the school and taken steps to check the spread of infection as far as possible. Great assistance has been given by the Headmasters and Headmistresses in notifying to me cases of infection as they have occurred in the schools, and by seeing that susceptible contacts were kept away during the requisite quarantine period.

Section D. Housing.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 737 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose... | 1183 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 130 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 245 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 34 |

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 7
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 7
3. Action under statutory powers during the year...
- (A) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.
- (a) By Owners 0
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners 0
- (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 276
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.
- (a) By Owners 0
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0
- (C) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 0
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 0
- (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made 0
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit 0
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Overcrowding:—
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 13
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 13
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 95½
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year 0
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 6
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 39

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions Nil

During the year Local Enquiry was held in respect of eight Clearance Areas, comprising 30 houses, and in all cases except one, the order for demolition was confirmed; in this exception, affecting four houses, an undertaking was given that the houses, on being vacated by the present tenants, should not be used subsequently for human habitation.

The rehousing scheme in regard to these areas was commenced during the latter part of the year with a view to providing alternative accommodation for the displaced tenants early in 1938.

The number of houses built by your Council for this purpose was as follows:—Five blocks of buildings containing in all 4 four-bedroomed houses and 12 one-bedroomed flats, a total of 16 separate dwellings, and in addition a scheme has been approved for the building of 12 two-bedroomed houses and 8 one-bedroomed flats.

The number of new houses built by private enterprise was 605, the majority of these being in the Cheadle Ward.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All the farms and dairies have been regularly inspected. They are all clean and satisfactorily kept. No samples of milk have been submitted during the year for examination for bacterial content or for tubercle bacilli. The examination for presence of tubercle bacilli has been taken over by the County Veterinary Staff.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The slaughter houses have been regularly inspected. They are clean and in all cases well kept. Carcases of two cows and two pigs were condemned during the year. All shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared have been regularly inspected and found clean.

The carcases of three beasts were condemned during the year, being found upon examination to be affected with generalised tuberculosis. Carcases of two pigs were also condemned. One was affected with generalised tuberculosis, the other with septic pneumonia.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.—This work is carried out by the County Council Officials.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—This work is carried out by the County Council officials.

(e) NUTRITION.—No special work has been done in this matter.

Section F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

1 GENERAL.—The number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease occurring in the district was considerably lower than in 1936, this being largely accounted for by the fewer cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with the figure for the preceding year. The incidence of Scarlet Fever reached peaks in May and November. The cases were of a mild character, chiefly occurring amongst children of school age, and in several cases the infection was so slight that desquamation had commenced before the illness was suspected. Influenza was specially prevalent early in the year, the attendance of most of the schools was well below 50 per cent during some part of that time, and I advised closure of the Cheadle Council School (both Senior and Infants Departments) and the Cheadle Etchells School, Heald Green, as a means of control of the infection. An outbreak of chicken-pox in the second quarter and whooping cough in the latter part of the year, occurred locally in one or two schools amongst the younger children.

Diphtheria has been more prevalent than in the previous year, 19 cases being notified as compared with nine cases in 1936. Diphtheria anti-toxin is available, free, for emergency use, and bacteriological examination of swabs taken from suspected cases are examined at your Council's expense, the advantage of these facilities being readily made use of. Your Council continues its policy of providing free Toxin-Antitoxin for producing immunization against diphtheria, and there are now 458 children who have been treated in this way. This is a very satisfactory figure considering that the scheme is carried out voluntarily—but the completed immunization of all children in the district, which is our ultimate objective, would require a scheme of free and systematic administration carried out by the Public Health Department.

By agreement with the Manchester Corporation your Council has a reservation of ten beds at the Monsall Isolation Hospital for Notifiable Infectious Diseases. During the latter part of the year, owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases in epidemic form in Manchester and the surrounding districts, thus overtaxing the available accommodation at Monsall Isolation Hospital, arrangements had to be made by the Public Health Department for necessary cases to be admitted to hospitals alternative to Monsall; this would appear to point to the fact that alternative and increased accommodation for infectious cases might well be considered as due. Since 1932, when the agreement with the Manchester Corporation was made, whilst the population of the district has increased by over 6,000, the number of the beds reserved at Monsall has remained at ten.

Under the provisions of Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, the County Council have prepared a scheme for the provision of adequate hospital accommodation for the proper isolation and treatment of persons suffering from infectious disease (including smallpox) within the Administrative County of Chester. This scheme, with modifications, has been approved by the Minister of Health.

In the scheme the Urban District of Cheadle and Gatley is included in Area No. 1, which Area comprises the County Districts of the Boroughs of Altrincham and Sale, the Urban Districts of Alderley Edge, Bowdon, Cheadle and Gatley, Hale, Knutsford, Lymm and Wilmslow, and the Rural District of Bucklow. To give effect to the scheme the Authorities concerned have agreed to the extension of the Bucklow Joint Hospital District to include those County Districts who are in No. 1 Area but do not at present form part of the Bucklow Joint Hospital District.

It has been agreed that the new area shall be known as "The North Cheshire Joint Hospital District," and the service will be controlled by the North Cheshire Joint Hospital Board. The constitution of the new Board will consist of representatives from each of the Local Authorities concerned.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases removed to Hospital.		Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	72	34	0	0
Diphtheria	19	19	2	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	0	
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	0	
Pneumonia	19	0	18	
Ophthalmia	0	0	0	
Erysipelas	5	3	0	
Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	
Meningitis	0	0	0	

The deaths in this table do not correspond to those in the table of deaths during the year, owing to deaths transferred in from other districts, the cases ^{not} being notified in this district.

An analysis of the total notified cases under specified age groups is given at the end of this report.

Number of specimens sent for bacteriological examination during the year:—

Diphtheria	85	Positive 15 ..	Negative 70
Typhoid Fever	6	Positive 0	Negative 6
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli ...	96	Positive 14	Negative 82

Swab Examination for
Haemolytic Streptococcus 1 Positive 1 Negative 0

2. (a) Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease of or injury to the eyes. The majority of persons so suffering are treated at the various hospitals in Manchester and Stockport.

(b) Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

3. Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1937:—

There were no non-notified deaths. The efficiency of notification of cases of tuberculosis is good. No proceedings were taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Age Periods.		NEW CASES.					DEATHS.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-			Pulmonary.		Non-	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	.....	—	—	—	—	.....	—	—	—	—
1—5	.....	—	—	—	—	.....	—	—	—	—
5—10	.....	—	—	—	1	.....	—	—	—	—
10—15	.....	1	—	—	—	.....	—	—	—	—
15—20	.....	1	—	—	—	.....	—	—	—	—
20—25	.....	1	6	—	—	.....	—	—	—	—
25—35	.....	7	3	—	2	.....	1	—	—	—
35—45	.....	2	—	—	1	.....	1	—	—	—
45—55	.....	1	—	—	—	.....	1	1	—	—
55—65	.....	1	1	1	—	.....	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	—	2	—	—	.....	1	1	—	—
Totals.....		14	12	1	4	.....	5	2	—	—

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspector's for the Year ended December 31st, 1937.

A		B		C				
Number and Nature of Inspection made.		Number	No. of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.			
			Statutory	Informal	Notices complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions.	
						Instituted	Pending	
1	Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	737	...	180	180	...	...
2	Cellar Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Back-to-back Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	26	...	...	...	...	...
5	Courts, Yards, Passages	190	...	12	12	...	...
6	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	75	...	...	...	...	...
7	Cesspools	46	...	...	...	...	...
8	House Drainage	460	...	35	35	...	...
9	Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	37	...	6	6	...	...
10	Offensive Accumulations	12	...	3	3	...	...
11	The Keeping of Animals (P. H. A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	6	...	...	...	...	...
12	Offensive Trades	46	...	...	...	...	...
13	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	...	...	...	...	...	...
	" (Private)	759	...	...	...	...	...
14	Piggeries	76	...	...	...	...	...
15	(a) Dairies	58	...	...	...	...	...
	(b) Cowsheds	163	...	...	...	...	...
	(c) Milkshops	132	...	...	...	...	...
	(a) Factories	46	...	...	...	...	...
16	(b) Workshops	35	...	...	...	...	...
	(c) Workplaces	96	...	...	...	...	...
	(d) Outworkers' Premises	53	...	...	...	...	...
17	Bakehouses (Overground)	23	...	...	...	...	...
	" (Underground)	75	...	...	...	...	...
18	Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	Smoke Observations	10	...	...	...	...	...
21	Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	336	...	...	...	...	...
23	Miscellaneous	450	...	...	...	...	...
Total		4063	...	269	269	...	...

Deaths during the year ending December 31st, 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					M.	F.
All Causes					121	115
1	Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1
6	Influenza	...	...	...	2	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargia	...	...	...	...	1
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	2
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer	...	...	...	14	16
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	4	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	4	4
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	43	28
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	12	12
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	13	5
21	Other Respiratory	...	...	...	2	2
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...
23	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	2
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...
26	Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
27	Other Digestive	...	...	...	1	5
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	5	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
30	Other Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...
31	Congenital Causes, etc.	...	...	...	7	3
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	4
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3
34	Other violence	...	...	...	4	3
35	Other defined Causes	...	...	...	4	14
36	Ill Defined Causes	...	...	...	...	...
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.						
Legitimate					12	4
Illegitimate					...	1
Total					12	5

